

EXTRA

JUST 327: Immigration Policy and Human Rights in Central America and Beyond

Fall 2009
W 6:10 –8:50 pm
El Centro 105

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Office Hours: M 12:00-1:00, T 11:00-1:00, Th 11:00-12:00 and by appointment

Course Description

In this course we will explore the social forces shaping the United States' relations with Latin America and their impact on U.S. immigration policy toward the people of the continent. Through a historical overview, we will discuss U.S. policies in Latin America starting in the 1800s, paying special attention to U.S. security policy and economic interests influencing regime change, particularly in Central America. In the second part of the course we will focus on the links between globalization and free trade, as promoted by the United States, with the migration of the people of the Americas. In this part we will pay attention to the social relations giving rise to Latin American migration, the contrasting immigration policies of the United States, and the issue of human rights and migrant rights in Latin America and the United States.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) understand the history of the relations between the United States and Latin America
- b) recognize the social, political, and economic forces that have produced Latin American immigration
- c) comprehend the ways in which particular social and historical contexts have shaped U.S. immigration policies toward the region
- d) distinguish the diverse immigration policies toward Latin America and their impact in the well being of Latin Americans

Required Materials

- Gonzalez, Juan. 2000. *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*. New York: Penguin Books.
- Booth, John, Christine Wade and Thomas Walker. 2006. *Understanding Central America: Global Forces, Rebellion, and Change*. Boulder, CO: Westview.
- Electronic Reserves (**ER**), search by instructor or course at the library reserves:
<https://i-share.carli.illinois.edu/nei/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=rbSearch>

Class Format

Class meetings will be structured upon readings, lectures, student presentations, and in class discussions. Given the fact that we must cover a large amount of material in a relatively short time, it is extremely important that students complete the reading assignments and come to class prepared to participate in the discussions.

Course Policies

1. Students must keep up with the weekly reading assignments, attend lectures and films and be prepared to participate in discussions. Students are expected to arrive early and stay for the whole class; attendance will be taken.

2. All University regulations concerning academic dishonesty and plagiarism will be strictly enforced. Violation of these codes may result in a failing grade and/or referral to a University disciplinary committee. You must give credit when you use, refer to or quote the author of a book, article, and film and therefore must offer full bibliographical references in your papers. Cheating will not be tolerated.
3. Course incompletes will be granted only in cases of extreme need and only to those students who have an acceptable record of class attendance. Students that need an "incomplete" grade must make arrangements with the instructor on or before the last week of classes.
4. Respectful behavior involves, among other things, actively listening to each other. Thus, side conversations while someone else is talking or any other kinds of class disruptions are not acceptable practices in this course. Please TURN OFF your cell phones.
5. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Accessibility Center located in building D, Room 104. Contact: 773-442-5495 or <http://www.neiu.edu/~help/Home.html>

Course Requirements and Grading

The course requirements include one student presentation in class as a leading discussant, two quizzes, a special written assignment on immigration, and two papers.

Attendance & Participation

Come to class every time having read the material. Be prepared to discuss it.

Student presentations

Each student will present and explain the readings assigned for one session (most of you will work in pairs and divide the readings). The student presenting the reading should also bring to class a handout. You will have 15 minutes maximum for your presentation. Your presentation should include the following:

- a) Major points made by the author of the chapter or article
- b) Your evaluation of the evidence offered by the author to prove her/his points
- c) A general and clear summary
- d) Class discussion: pose two well-developed questions to class
- e) A handout (see below)
- f) You may also bring visual aids such as maps, photographs, drawings, music, and overheads that might assist in the introduction and analysis.

Written Outline of Presentation

In 1-2 pages you should outline and discuss the following:

- a) List and explain the major points, concepts and the major argument of the reading.
- b) Describe the evidence the author provides to prove her/his points.
- c) Evaluate the reading: is the evidence strong/weak to prove the author's argument?
- d) What are the author's conclusions? Do you agree?
- e) Pose two discussion questions or problem-solving exercises based on the reading.

Bring copies of your presentation outline for everyone.

Quizzes

2 in-class quizzes, mostly multiple-choice but will also include short essay questions.

Immigration assignment

Short, 3-page paper. You will discuss a topic or theme related to free trade, human rights and immigration. Professor will give further instructions.

Midterm paper

In a 5-page paper you will discuss the topic of U.S. policies in Latin America. Professor will give further instructions.

Final paper

In a 5-page paper, you will discuss immigration policy, human rights and immigrant rights. Professor will give further instructions.

Summarized, the weighting of each component in your grade will look like this:

Attendance and participation	10 points
Student presentation	10 points
Immigration assignment	10 points
2 quizzes	20 points (10 each)
Midterm paper	25 points
Final paper	25 points
Total	100 points

Letter grade according to points obtained:

A=90-100

B=80-89

C=60-69

D=60-69

F=50-59

No late assignment will be accepted or make up test will be given after December 9, 2009.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Week 1

Sep. 2

Introduction

Discussion of course content and assignments. Introduction to topics.

Film: *The Gringo in Mañanaland*. 1995. DeeDee Halleck.

Week 2

Sep. 9

Making an Empire 1800 – 1950

GONZALEZ, chapters 2 and 3, pp. 27-78.

Film: *Remember the Alamo*. 2004. Joseph Tovares. (clip).

Week 3

Sep. 16

Empire and Intervention in the Caribbean

GONZALEZ, chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7, pp. 81-128

Week 4
Sep. 23 **US Intervention in Central America**
GONZALEZ, chapters 8 and 9, pp. 108-163.
BOOTH, chapter 1, pp. 1-9.

Quiz # 1.

Week 5
Sep. 30 **Global Forces and Regime Change in Central America**
BOOTH, chapter 2, pp. 13-39.
BOOTH, chapter 6, pp. 95-114.

Week 6
Oct. 7 **Global Forces, cont.**
BOOTH, chapters 5 and 7, pp. 69-93 and 115-131.

Film: *Enemies of War*. 1999. Esther Cassidy. (clip).

Week 7
Oct. 14 **US Policies in the Andean Region**
Loveman, 2006. "U.S. Security Policies in Latin America and the Andean Region, 1990-2006." Pp. 1-52 in *Addicted to failure: U.S. security policy in Latin America and the Andean Region* edited by B. Loveman. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. **ER**

Quiz # 2.

Week 8
Oct. 21 **Free Trade, Immigration and Human Rights in Latin America**
GONZALEZ, chapter 13, pp. 228-245.

Rosenberg, Tina. 2002. "Globalization," *The New York Times*, August 18, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/18/magazine/globalization.html?pagewanted=all&pagewanted=print> **ER**

Suggested:

Dollars and Sense Collective. 2006. "The ABCs of the Global Economy," *Dollars and Sense: Real World Economics*, at <http://www.dollarsandsense.org/archives/2000/0300collect.html> **ER**

Instructions given for midterm paper.

Week 9
Oct. 28 **Free Trade, cont.**
Oscar Ugarteche. 1999. "The Structural Adjustment Stranglehold: Debt and Underdevelopment in the Americas," *NACLA Report on the Americas*, (July/August): 21-23. **ER**

Bacon, David. 2008. "Why Did We Come?" pp. 23-49 in "Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants. Boston, MA: Beacon Press. **ER**

Rosenberg, Tina. 2003. "Why Mexico's Small Corn Farmers Go Hungry." *The New York Times*, March 3, at

<http://artsci.wustl.edu/~anthro/articles/Why%20Mexico%27s%20Small%20Corn%20Farmer%20Go%20Hungry.htm> ER

Roig-Franzia, Manuel. 2007. "A Culinary and Cultural Staple in Crisis," *The Washington Post*, January 27, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/26/AR2007012601896.html> ER

Suggested:

Shultz, Jim. 2005. "The Politics of Water in Bolivia," *The Nation*, January 28, <http://www.thenation.com/doc/20050214/shultz> ER

NOW. 2002. "Leasing the Rain," *Public Broadcasting Corporation*, July 5, at <http://www.pbs.org/now/science/bolivia.html> ER

Film: *The Corporation*. 2007.

Midterm paper due.

Week 10

Nov. 4

Free Trade and Immigration Policy

Massey, Douglas. 1998. "March of Folly: American Immigration Policy After NAFTA," *The American Prospect*, March-April, at <http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/immigration/folly.htm> ER

LaRosa, Michael and Lance Ingwersen. 2007. "U.S. Immigration Policies in Historic Context: A Latin American Case Study" pp. 249-262 in M. LaRosa and F. Mora, eds. *Neighborly Adversaries: Readings in U.S.-Latin American Relations*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield. ER

Video: "NAFTA Flu" 2009. David Bacon. 15 min., <http://vimeo.com/4602930>

Week 11

Nov. 11

Immigration Policy and Human Rights in Latin America

Christopher Mitchell, 1995. "Policy toward Western Hemisphere Immigration and Human Rights" pp. 272-298, in Martz, J. D. *United States Policy in Latin America: A Decade of Crisis and Challenge*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press. ER

Instructions given for immigration assignment.

Week 12

Nov. 18

Immigration Policy and Human Rights, cont.

García, María Cristina. 2006. "Refugees or Economic Immigrants? The Debate over Accountability in the United States" pp. 84-118 in *Seeking Refuge: Central American migration to Mexico, the United States, and Canada* by María Cristina García. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. ER

Film: *De Nadie* (Border Crossing). 2007. Tin Dirdamal.

Immigration assignment due.

Week 13
Nov. 25

Immigration Policy, Criminalization and Immigrant Rights

Jonas, Susanne. 2006. "Reflections on the Great Immigration Battle of 2006 and the Future of the Americas," *Social Justice Journal*, 33 (1): 6-20.
http://www.socialjusticejournal.org/pdf_free/103Jonas.pdf ER

Caminero-Santangelo, Marta. 2009. "Responding to the Human Costs of Immigration Policy: No More Deaths and the New Sanctuary Movement," *Latino Studies*, 7 (1): 112-122. ER

Sassen, Saskia. 2006. "The Bits of a New Immigration Reality: A Bad Fit with Current Policy," *Social Science Research Council*, <http://borderbattles.ssrc.org/Sassen/printable.html> ER

Instructions for final paper.

Week 14
Dec. 2

Immigration Policy, Criminalization, cont.

Camayd-Freixas, Erik. 2008. "Interpreting after the Largest ICE Raid in US History: A Personal Account." in *The New York Times*, July 11, at
<http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/national/20080711IMMIG.pdf>. ER

Bernstein, Nina. 2008. "City of Immigrants Fills Jail Cells with its Own," *The New York Times*, December 27, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/27/us/27detain.html> ER

De Genova, Nicholas. 2006. "Migrant "Illegality" and the Metaphysics of Antiterrorism: "Immigrants' Rights" in the Aftermath of the Homeland Security State," *Social Science Research Council*, http://borderbattles.ssrc.org/De_Genova/ ER

Suggested:

Ong, Hing Bill and David Bacon. 2009. "Rights, Not Raids," *The Nation*, April 29, at
http://www.thenation.com/doc/20090518/hing_bacon?rel=hp_currently ER

Robinson, William. 2007. "Globalization and the Struggle for Immigrant Rights in the United States," at <http://www.zmag.org/znet/viewArticle/1864> ER

Week 15
Dec. 9

Conclusions

GONZALEZ, Epilogue, pp. 269-273.
UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights at
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml> ER

Final paper due.